

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013391
ORIGIN EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013391

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, CSCE, PORG

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP TO DECEMBER NAC MINISTERIAL

REF: (A) USNATO 220 (NOTAL); (B) 77 USNATO 4793 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE DIFFICULTY DETERMINING HOW SERIOUSLY WE SHOULD
TAKE THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S CUSTOMARY NOTE ON FOLLOW-UP
WORK STEMMING FROM THE DECEMBER NAC MINISTERIAL. THE
ORIGINS OF THIS CUSTOM ARE LOST IN OUR ARCHIVES AND WE
CANNOT RECALL INSTANCES WHEN THE NOTE ITSELF, OR
PERMREPS COMMENTS THEREON, HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT AS A
WORK PROGRAM OR OTHER GUIDE FOR THE COUNCIL'S WORK
DURING THE ENSUING SIX MONTHS. AS A BROAD BRUSH
PICTURE OF THE BUSINESS AGENDA OF THE NEXT SIX MONTHS,
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PAGE 02 STATE 013391

WE WOULD NOT TAKE EXCEPTION TO LUNS' MEMO. ON THE
OTHER HAND, IF OTHERS DO TAKE ITS CONTENTS MORE
SERIOUSLY THAN WE RECALL, THEN WE WOULD HAVE SPECIFIC
COMMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO CERTAIN OF ITS PARAGRAPHS.
ACCORDINGLY, WE LEAVE TO MISSION'S DISCRETION THE MOST
APPROPRIATE MEANS TO HANDLE THE JANUARY 18 COUNCIL
DISCUSSION OF THE LUNS MEMO.

2. IN REVIEWING THE PRESENT MEMO WE NOTE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON ITS CONTENTS.

A) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM (8) -- "HUMANITARIAN LAW," ALL TOPICS LISTED ARE CARRIED OVER FROM HIS JUNE 1977 MEMO (REF B). MOREOVER, THE TOPICS ARE PRESENTED EITHER IN VIRTUALLY THE SAME LANGUAGE USED IN PREVIOUS MEMOS (ITEMS 1,3,4,9, AND 10) OR IN SLIGHTLY MODIFIED AND UPDATED FORM (ITEMS 5,6,7, AND 11). WE HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH THESE TRADITIONAL ITEMS AND CAN CONCUR IN THE INCLUSION OF THE ADDITIONAL SUBJECT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW.

B) PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON SUMMIT: WHILE ALL ITEMS IN LUNS' MEMO ARE AT LEAST IMPLICITLY KEYED TO THIS SUBJECT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE NAC TO BEGIN TO FOCUS EXPLICITLY ON THIS SUBJECT EARLY IN THE CYCLE OF SPRING 1978 ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION TO FOCUSING ON TRADITIONAL ITEMS AND COMPLETION OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS SLATED FOR PRESENTATION AT THE SUMMIT, PERMREPS MAY WISH TO ADDRESS IN THE NAC AS WELL AS IN WEEKLY LUNCHEON MEETINGS THE QUESTION OF HOW TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY THE TWO SUMMITS.

C) CSCE: WE ASSUME THIS PARAGRAPH WAS DRAFTED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 013391

KNOWN FRENCH SENSITIVITIES IN MIND. AS PRESENTLY WORDED, WE WOULD HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ACCEPTING THIS ITEM IN PRESENT FORM SINCE IT IMPLICITLY NARROWS THE TRADITIONAL OVERALL CSCE COMPETENCE OF THE COUNCIL AND OTHER NATO BODIES, AND EVEN SUGGESTS A POSSIBLE DOWNGRADING OF CSCE CONSULTATIONS IN NATO AFTER THE BELGRADE MEETING. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH TRENDS, WHICH COULD ALSO AFFECT OTHER AREAS OF ALLIED POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS, SHOULD BE PATIENTLY BUT FIRMLY RESISTED AS IN THE PAST. THE EMPHASIS ON CBMS, AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER CSCE SUBJECTS, IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE. IDEALLY WE WOULD HAVE LIKED SPECIFIC REAFFIRMATION THAT NATO CONTINUES TO BE THE PRIMARY FORUM FOR ALLIED CONSULTATIONS IN ALL CSCE AREAS AND A SPECIFIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION WOULD CONTINUE AFTER BELGRADE ALONG ESTABLISHED LINES; AT A MINIMUM WE EXPECTED A REPETITION OF THE BROADLY WORDED LANGUAGE ON THIS SUBJECT USED IN PREVIOUS FOLLOW-UP MEMOS. WHILE BOTH PRACTICALLY AND TACTICALLY IT MAY NOT NOW BE ADVISABLE TO PRESS FOR LANGUAGE ALONG THE FORMER LINE, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERScore OUR VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. IF POSSIBLE

TO MODIFY LANGUAGE ON THIS ITEM, WE WOULD PREFER A FORMULATION ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "CSCE: THE PERMANENT COUNCIL WILL WISH TO CONTINUE THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT AND ON THE CONDUCT OF THE REMAINDER OF THE BELGRADE MAIN MEETING. AS PART OF ITS ONGOING WORK WITH REGARD TO CSCE, THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO STUDY (CBM AND OTHER) NEW INITIATIVES PRESENTED AT THE BELGRADE MEETING (AMONG THEM, THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE SIZE OF MILITARY MANEUVERS)." NOTE: WE WOULD PREFER TO OMIT LANGUAGE IN PARENTHESES, BUT IN LIGHT OF ANTICIPATED RESISTANCE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME SPECIFIC EMPHASIS ON CBMS WILL BE REQUIRED.
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PAGE 04 STATE 013391

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